



# India Australia Technology Commercialisation Challenge (TCC) 2.0

## Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Guidelines for Australian Publicly Funded Research organisations and Australian technology organisations only

<b>Stage One Expression of Interest:</b>	Opens on Wednesday 3 June 2026, 9:00AM Closes on Sunday 19 July 2026, 11:30PM
<b>Stage Two Grant Application (by invitation only):</b>	Opens on Monday 27 July 2026, 9:00AM Closes on Wednesday 30 September 2026, 11:30PM All times are in Australian Eastern Standard Time. Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.
<b>Commonwealth policy entity:</b>	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
<b>Administering entity:</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
<b>Enquiries:</b>	If you have any questions, contact <a href="mailto:TCC@csiro.au">TCC@csiro.au</a>
<b>Date guidelines released:</b>	TCC 2.0, Version 1.0: 27 May 2026
<b>Type of grant opportunity:</b>	Targeted competitive

### Technology Commercialisation Challenge 2.0 Grant Opportunity Guidelines version history

Document reference	Date	Update

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# 1 Technology Commercialisation Challenge 2.0 process

## **The Technology Commercialisation Challenge (TCC) 2.0 is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives**

TCC contributes to the Australian Government's efforts to strengthen economic ties between Australia and India to promote prosperity in both nations through the [India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership](#) and; The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEW) focus on addressing climate change and advancing the energy agenda;

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)'s investment via the Australia-India Trade and Investment Accelerator Fund (AI-TIAF), which supports and accelerates trade and investment activities between both nations and the New Roadmap for Australia's Economic Engagement with India;

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's (CSIRO) mission to drive innovation and technology development in response to national challenges

CSIRO has planned and designed the TCC according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)](#).

## **The grant opportunity opens**

We publish the grant opportunity guidelines online at <https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/International/Technology-Commercialisation-Challenge/Australian-organisations>

## **Stage One: Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)**

You submit an EOI application, demonstrating you meet the eligibility criteria and addressing all assessment criteria, and how closely it aligns with the Indian industry requirements including your ability to address the Renewable Energy Partnership Priority R&D Areas, and if invited, engage in discussions with Indian renewable energy manufacturer(s).

## **Stage Two: By invitation, submit a Grant Application**

We may invite you to submit a Grant Application for a collaboration with your nominated Indian industry partner. We assess your Grant Application against the assessment criteria and an overall consideration of value with relevant money.

## **We make grant recommendations**

We provide advice to the Program Delegate on the merits of recommended grant applications.

## **Grant decisions are made**

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.

## **We notify you of the outcome**

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until Participation Agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

## **We enter into a Participation Agreement**

We will enter into a Participation Agreement with you if you have been successful.

## **Delivery of grant**

We manage the grant by working with you to monitor the progress of your application.

## **Evaluation of the Technology Commercialisation Challenge grant opportunity**

We evaluate your specific grant proposal and the TCC grant opportunity as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

## 1.1 Introduction

These guidelines (“Guidelines”) contain information for the Technology Commercialisation Challenge 2.0 Grant opportunity (the “opportunity”).

In November 2024 the Australian Government and the Government of India announced an enhanced India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (“REP”, “Partnership”), guiding climate and energy cooperation between both nations. The Partnership provides a framework to promote collaboration in diversifying clean energy supply chains and accelerating the energy transition.

In launching the Partnership, both the Australian Government and the Government of India highlighted the crucial role of private sector involvement in renewable energy investment and technology commercialisation. Under this Partnership, the **Technology Commercialisation Challenge** will see India and Australia establish research and development (R&D) relationships and leadership in the commercialisation of cutting-edge renewable technology.

CSIRO in partnership with the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is delivering Round 2 of the Technology Commercialisation Challenge (TCC 2.0) under the India–Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (REP) and New Roadmap for Australia’s Economic Engagement with India.

You must read these guidelines before completing an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria for Stage One Expression of Interest and Stage Two Grant Application
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

We administer the TCC Grant opportunity with regard to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#) (CGRPs).<sup>1</sup>

## 2 About the grant opportunity

The TCC is designed to enhance R&D collaboration between India and Australia, with a specific focus on establishing leadership in the research, development and commercialisation and manufacturing of cutting-edge renewable technology by our two nations. It offers a unique opportunity to bring together Australia’s world-class R&D expertise, and key technology/product/solutions, with India’s rapidly expanding renewable energy manufacturing capabilities. By combining these strengths, the Challenge aims to drive innovation, improve the sustainability of energy systems, and facilitate the global transition to cleaner, more reliable energy sources.

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<sup>1</sup> [Federal Register of Legislation - Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#)

The objective of the opportunity is:

- to build formal partnerships between Indian industry and the Australian research and commercial sector to advance renewable energy technologies under the REP, ensuring that the knowledge and expertise of the Australian research and commercial sector aligns with the manufacturing strengths of Indian industry.

The intended outcomes of the opportunity are to:

- strengthen and diversify renewable energy supply chains in both countries
- develop advanced renewable energy technologies through joint research and collaboration
- contribute to sustainable, clean energy solutions on a global scale
- create new trade and business prospects in the renewable energy sector between India and Australia
- enhance ongoing knowledge sharing and capacity-building between both nations.

The opportunity requires successful grantees to:

- actively engage with potential Indian industry partner/s with a view to exploring and or designing collaborative R&D projects in nominated priority area/s
- enter into a Participation Agreement with the CSIRO
- develop, negotiate and sign a Letter of Support, or similar and which may be non-binding with an Indian industry partner, outlining both parties interests in exploring collaborative R&D opportunities, and upon which the grant payment is tied.

These Guidelines pertain to Australian research organisations and eligible Australian technology companies only. Indian industry should direct any enquiries about participation to [TCC@csiro.au](mailto:TCC@csiro.au).

## 3 About the grant opportunity

### 3.1 Delivery of the grant opportunity

Successfully selected Australian research and technology organisations (the ‘Participant Organisations’) will engage with nominated Indian industry partner/s, and through a range of cross-border capacity building activities will explore how they may collaborate and innovate in specified R&D priority areas in solar PV, hydrogen and battery technology manufacturing; or other associated technologies that support other key areas of the REP.

The grant opportunity (the “opportunity”) is open to eligible:

- Australian research organisations
- Australian technology companies (startups and small-to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs))

Table 1: Proposed schedule of TCC 2.0 delivery

1. Identification	Specified R&D challenges of both emerging and established Indian innovative renewables manufacturers are identified.  Selected Indian manufacturers are paired with leading Australian research expertise and technology companies.  Australian Research Organisation and technology companies submit an online EOI responding to assessment criteria and outlining their capability and capacity to respond to specified Challenge Statement/s.
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	<p>An evaluation process selects and matches Australian Research organisations and technology companies to potential Indian industry partner/s.</p> <p>Invited Australian Research Organisation and technology companies submit an online Grant Application including a Letter of Support from the nominated Indian industry partner.</p>
2. Facilitation	Stakeholders are supported to collaborate towards developing R&D and commercialisation led solution/s.
3. Collaboration	<p>Stakeholders are supported to formalise mutually beneficial collaborative arrangements, through Letters of Intent, Memorandum of Understanding and or Project Agreements, seeing Australia's R&amp;D and technology expertise and India's renewable manufacturing strengths combine for bilateral leadership and commercialisation of renewable energy technologies.</p> <p>Selected Australian Participant Organisations and Indian industry partner/s come together in India, online and as required to explore collaborative projects/efforts in renewable technology.</p>

Successful applicants will engage in the Challenge, which consists of (the "Challenge Activities"):

- undertaking project activities outlined in your Grant Application and Participation Agreement
- facilitated online information and learning sessions to support collaboration discussions with, and regarding, Indian stakeholders; and to support awareness and understanding of cross-border navigation, technology validation and adaptation, connections and networks, and credibility building in the new market.
- connections and support from dedicated Challenge Facilitator/s and experienced entrepreneurs, investors, industry representatives and or other international trade related experts as required.
- in-person India Immersion Week (India, November/early December 2026). It is mandatory that at a minimum two Nominated Participants attend in-person activities in India.
- regular (for example, fortnightly) collaborative discussions with your nominated Indian industry partner/s.
- completing and submitting all necessary reporting and documentation as outlined in your Participation Agreement.

To participate in the opportunity, successfully selected Participant Organisations will be asked to enter into a Participation Agreement with CSIRO. Participant Organisations must appoint no less than two individuals as outlined in the Participation Agreement, who will actively support and participate in the Challenge.

## 4 Grant amount and grant period

### 4.1 Grants available

The TCC grant opportunity will run from 9 November 2026 to 31 July 2027.

For this grant opportunity a total grant pool of \$880,000 is available, the maximum grant amount is \$55,000 (plus GST). The Challenge does not allow for an increase of grant funds.

The grant will be awarded subject to satisfactory participation in, and completion of Challenge Activities.

You may submit more than one application, provided each application addresses a different Priority Area under the REP. Each application will be assessed on its individual merits. Awarding more than one grant to a Participating Organisation will be subject to review and decision by the Program Delegate. We may contact you should a decision be required concerning the selection of one application to proceed with into the Challenge. The Program Delegate's decision is final.

## 4.2 Grant period

The maximum grant period is up to 10 months.

# 5 Eligibility criteria

## 5.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

### **Australian Research organisations**

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian business number (ABN)
- be a publicly funded research organisation (PFRO) as defined in section 21 of these grant opportunity guidelines
- have or be actively developing a technology or solution that aligns with a Priority Area under the REP

### **Australian technology company (startup or small-to medium-sized business)**

To be eligible you must:

- be a company incorporated in Australia with ABN and ACN or an incorporated trustee applying on behalf of a trust
- be headquartered or domiciled in Australia
- registered for GST
- has not had revenue of more than \$20 million in any of the last 3 financial years
- have or be actively developing a technology or solution that aligns with a Priority Area under the REP.

You can't apply if you are:

- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the National Redress Scheme's list of [Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme](#)
- an employer of 100 or more employees that has [not complied](#) with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)*
- not one of the entities listed above.

You can partner with one or more other organisations that also meet the eligibility criteria. But you must decide who the lead organisation is. The lead organisation:

- must fill out the application form

- signs the Participation Agreement
- is awarded the grant
- is responsible for making sure your organisation and partner organisation follows the terms and conditions outlined in the Participation Agreement.

The eligibility criteria cannot be waived under any circumstances.

A lead researcher or lead participant must be nominated.

## 5.2 Priority Areas Challenge Statements

Upon collection from Indian industry participants, select Priority R&D Area Challenge Statement/s relevant to strategic renewable energy supply chains and to participating Indian renewable manufacturers, will be made available to successful Stage One EOI applications.

# 6 What the grant money can be used for

## 6.1 Grant available

The Grant for each Australian Participant Organisation **is up to \$55,000** (plus GST), paid in two \$27,500 (plus GST) tranches in accordance with the Participation Agreement schedule. Payment of the Grant is subject to:

- satisfactory participation in, and completion of, Challenge and Project Activities
- timely and satisfactory submission of deliverables – specifically a signed Letter or Support or similar, with a nominated Indian renewable manufacturer/s, and
- meeting performance milestones and participation requirements.

Participant Organisations are responsible for any remaining costs associated with their participation in the Challenge Activities

## 6.2 Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your participation must:

- be consistent with the objectives and intended outcomes of the Technology Commercialisation Challenge;
- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure; and
- be in support of collaboration in research in a nominated Priority Area and Challenge Statement/s.

## 6.3 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you incur as a result of your participation in the Challenge. The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure. Additional specific expenses may also be deemed eligible at the discretion of the Program Delegate.

Eligible expenditure includes (non-exhaustive):

- salary and on-costs of PFRO researcher(s) and commercialisation/similar staff. Eligible labour expenditure covers the direct labour costs of employees engaged in the Challenge activities and engagement with your nominated Indian manufacturer. We consider a person an employee when you pay them a regular salary or wage, out of which you make regular tax instalment deductions

- student costs e.g. stipend (Australian Research Organisations only)
- be a direct cost of your participation in the Challenge and or to demonstrate a potential collaborative R&D opportunity to your nominated Indian industry partner/s
- consumables and or research costs related to your participation in the Challenge and as required to demonstrate a potential collaborative R&D opportunity to your nominated Indian industry partner/s
- critical external facilities access/services/contractors required to support you to demonstrate a potential collaborative R&D opportunity to your nominated Indian industry partner/s
- up to 30% maximum of the grant may support reasonable costs of domestic accommodation and transportation, and international accommodation and transportation to India, required to conduct Challenge Activities; and or to enable collaboration amongst staff, contractors or subcontractors where that travel is material to the conduct of the collaboration with your nominated Indian industry partner/s.

Eligible contract expenditure is the cost of any agreed project activities that you contract others to do. These can include contracting:

- another organisation
- an individual who is not an employee, but engaged under a separate contract. All contractors must have a written contract prior to starting any project work—for example, a formal agreement, letter or purchase order which specifies the nature of the work they perform; and the applicable fees, charges and other costs payable.

We may update these guidelines on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version of the guidelines in place when you execute a Participation Agreement applies to your grant activity.

You must incur Challenge related expenditure between the Challenge commencement date and end or completion date outlined in your Participation Agreement for it to be eligible.

## 6.4 What the grant money cannot be used for

The Grant cannot be used to support the costs of any activity that would be reasonably anticipated to bring the Challenge into disrepute.

The Grant must not be used to obtain any financial assistance for the same activities from another source including any scheme administered by the Commonwealth or a State or Territory, or an authority of the Commonwealth or State or Territory of Australia, or the Indian government, and related union states and territories of India. The Grant must not be used to make any donations, sponsorships, or gifts, or payments, costs or associated fees paid to the Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments or their officials, in Australia and India.

You cannot use the grant for any of the following:

- PFRO overhead or infrastructure charges/fees
- capital works and expenditure
- infrastructure costs
- major construction/capital works.

## 6.5 Who will be paid the grant?

The Grant is paid subject to a Participant Organisation satisfying each of the following (the “Milestones”):

- You (your Nominated Participant/s collectively) actively participating in formal virtual Australia Challenge Activities.
- You (your Nominated Participant/s collectively) actively participate in formal in-person India Immersion Week.
- Completion of project activities outlined in Schedule 2 of your Participation Agreement.
- Submit a post India Immersion Week Progress Activity Report in the template provided at the commencement of the Challenge that outlines if and how your activities resulted in strengthened collaboration and how your project activities have progressed.
- Submit a Final Challenge Report in the template provided at the conclusion of the Challenge Activities, that outlines if and how your participation in the Challenge has resulted in collaboration and or commercial engagements, how your project and collaboration with your nominated Indian industry partner has developed over the course of the Challenge, and if your expectations and ambitions regarding these relationships have been achieved.
- Submit all other surveys linked to your Participation Agreement and other documentation or information as reasonably requested by CSIRO to effectively manage and evaluate the Challenge.

To be satisfactory, deliverables submitted must in CSIRO’s reasonable opinion meet the requirements specified in the Participation Agreement.

## 6.6 How we pay the grant

The Participation Agreement will state the how we pay the Grant and:

- maximum Grant amount we will pay
- anticipated schedule of payment/s
- any program contributions you will make.

We will not exceed the maximum Grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself. You must be able to fund the total cost of participating in the Challenge prior to be awarding the grant.

Payments will be made according to an agreed schedule set out in the Participation Agreement and these may be reliant upon provision of an agreed tax invoice. Payments will only be made subject to achievement of milestones and submission of tax invoice.

## 6.7 Grant payments and GST

Participant Organisations must supply Australian bank account details, which will be verified by CSIRO, and ensure the business’s Goods and Services Tax (GST) registration status is provided.

If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable GST will be added to your Grant payment/s.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office, <https://www.ato.gov.au>. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

## 7 Travel

A minimum of two Nominated Participants from your organisation are required to travel to India in November/early December 2026 to participate in a 5-day India Immersion Week providing an opportunity to meet with your Indian industry partner to progress your project, and engage in Challenge Activities. The dates will be confirmed in due course.

The grant supports the **reasonable cost** of flights and accommodation, visa, ground fares and incidentals for Nominated Participants to attend the mandatory in-person activities. All other costs are at the expense of the Participating Organisation.

Eligible air transportation is limited to an **economy class fare** for each sector travelled; where non-economy class air transport is used only the equivalent of an economy fare for that sector is eligible expenditure. Where non-economy class air transport is used, the Participant Organisation must provide evidence showing what an economy airfare cost at the time of travel.

Once the eligible travel grant expenditure has been reached, additional Nominated Participants may attend the in-person experiences, at the Participant Organisation's cost.

Nominated Participants travelling to in-person experiences who anticipate eligible expenses to be above 'reasonable costs' must outline costs and reason for higher travel costs via email to [TCC@csiro.au](mailto:TCC@csiro.au). Any costs deemed unreasonable will be at the expense of the Participating Organisation. We may request receipts for eligible travel expenses for up to 12 months after the travel period.

Nominated Participants are responsible for all travel insurance and medical expenses in relation to any travel associated with the Program. Nominated Participants should consult with their medical provider to obtain clearance to travel and conduct necessary due diligence regarding medical conditions before travelling to in-person activities.

## 8 How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these Guidelines, the sample application form, and the sample Participation Agreement. These may be found at <https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/International/Technology-Commercialisation-Challenge>

Applicants should read all eligibility and assessment criteria closely and provide supporting evidence that supports the assessment criteria.

### 8.1 Application Process

This is a two-stage application process:

- Stage 1 Expression of Interest
- Stage 2 Grant Application (by invitation).

To apply for Stage 1 and Stage 2 you must:

- set up an account, and complete and submit your form using the Good Grants online application platform
- address all the assessment criteria
- provide all the information requested
- review privacy and other application consents specific to the program

In addition, to apply for Stage One EOI you must:

- address all eligibility criteria
- s submit your Grant Application by the date and time indicated on the cover page of the Guidelines.

To apply for Stage Two Grant Application, you must:

- be invited to apply
- upload a Letter of Support from your nominated Indian renewable energy partner evidencing both parties intention to collaborate under the TCC
- submit your Grant Application by the date and time indicated on the cover page of the Guidelines.

Personal Information is collected, including sensitive information of Nominated Participants for the purposes of delivering the Challenge, see section 17, Privacy.

Applicants should not disclose sensitive Participant Organisation Confidential Information at any stage of the application. Participant Organisation's should take all reasonable steps to ensure they do not disclose material which would undermine their ability to secure patent or other protection for Participant Organisation Confidential Information, or which would jeopardise or hinder their commercial activities.

You are responsible for ensuring that information provided in the grant opportunity application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995 \(Cth\)](#). We will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

After submitting your application, we can contact you for clarification if we find an error or any missing information, including evidence that supports your eligibility/merit. The acceptance of any additional information provided after the submission of your application is at the discretion of the Program Delegate. Additional information should not materially change your application at the time it was submitted and therefore may be refused if deemed to be purely supplementary. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately via email to [TCC@csiro.au](mailto:TCC@csiro.au). We do not have to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the Good Grants portal for your own records. You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

If you need further guidance about the application process or if you are unable to submit an application online contact us at [TCC@csiro.au](mailto:TCC@csiro.au).

## 8.2 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must apply between the Opening and Closing Dates stipulated at the start of this document. Late application acceptance is at the discretion of the Program Delegate.

Table 2: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Maximum Timeframe
Stage One EOI opens	6 weeks
Assessment of EOI	4 weeks
Stage Two Grant Application Opens by invitation	3 weeks

Activity	Maximum Timeframe
Approval of outcomes of selection process	2 weeks
Participation Commences	From date of execution of Participation Agreement
Earliest start date of Challenge Activities	9 November 2026
End date of grant commitment	31 July 2027

### 8.3 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, email [TCC@csiro.au](mailto:TCC@csiro.au).

We will respond to emailed questions within two working days.

We may contact you to ask for clarification or additional information from you regarding the information and the nature of your application.

## 9 The assessment criteria

We first review your application against the eligibility criteria. If eligible, we will assess the suitability of your application based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- how it compares to other applications.

### 9.1 Application Assessment Criteria

Your Stage One EOI and, if invited, Stage Two Grant Application must address the assessment criteria outlined below. We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should allow assessors to determine your capacity and capability to participate in Challenge activities and your relevance to the Challenge Statement/s. The application form displays size limits for answers.

The questions in the EOI and Grant Application may indirectly relate to the assessment criteria rather than directly requesting specific information. It is important to be aware of the criteria against which your application will be assessed as this will assist in formulating responses. Stage One Expression of Interest assessment criterion

The application form to submit an EOI will ask you a series of questions where you will address all the assessment criteria listed below. We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion.

### 9.2 EOI assessment criterion 1

#### **Alignment with grant opportunity objectives and key REP Priority Area (40%)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying and giving consideration to:

- a. the expertise in the selected Priority Area and how you will draw on this experience for the benefit of Indian renewable energy manufacturers
- b. alignment to Challenge objectives and outcomes as documented in section 2 of these Guidelines.

### 9.2.1 EOI assessment criterion 2

#### **Capacity and capability and resources to carry out and deliver the project (30%)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. your and your team's personnel, capacity and access to key resources with the right expertise and skills
- b. your ability to provide access to equipment and resources.

### 9.2.2 EOI assessment criterion 3

#### **c. Previous engagement with India or other international markets (20%)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- d. you, your team and or your organisation's past engagement with India or other international markets and rationale for participating in the Challenge.
- e. how the engagement will develop robust and sustainable collaboration between Australia and India or other international markets in your Priority Area of research expertise.

### 9.2.3 EOI assessment criterion 4

#### **Intellectual Property and commercialisation (10%)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. any IP in the selected Priority Area that has or is suitable for commercialisation or licensing.

## 9.3 Stage Two Grant Application assessment criterion

Applications for Stage Two are by invitation only.

If invited to apply under Stage Two, your grant application must address the assessment criteria outlined below. Responses to Stage Two assessment criterion are around project and engagement activities with your nominated Indian industry partner. You will also be asked to provide evidence to support your collaboration intent with your nominated Indian industry partner.

### 9.3.1 Grant Application assessment criterion 1

#### **Alignment with grant opportunity objectives and outcomes (70%)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. your understanding of the Indian Industry Partner's Challenge Statement/s and how your expertise and experience could assist in addressing these areas in their business, including the rationale for your approach and any existing research you will build on. Where relevant identify the current competitive landscape in your chosen area of research, including a comparative analysis of similar or alternate technology
- b. how your project activities will address an industry-identified problem and improve the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of the technology/solution
- c. the extent to which your organisation specialises in one or more of the Challenge Statement/s, in which areas, and why and how you can draw on this sectoral expertise for the benefit of your nominated Indian industry partner.

### 9.3.2 Grant Application assessment criterion 2

#### **Commitment to engagement with India (20%)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying and reference to any attached documentation:

- a. evidence of commitment and support from your nominated Indian industry partner in relation to your visit to India including details of planned activities and the anticipated outcomes of the visit.
- b. you and your team's planned engagement with India, as part of the India Immersion Week in November/early December 2026, and further attendance at conferences or visits to other Indian organisations.

### 9.3.3 Grant Application assessment criterion 3

#### **Grant expenditure and value in relation to the allocated funds (10%)**

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. how the grant funding will be used to achieve the outcomes of the project activities.

## 10 The grant selection process

### 10.1 Assessment of grant applications

We may seek additional information about you, project partners, related bodies corporate, related entities and associated entities (as defined in the Corporations Act) and related personnel from third party sources, including other Commonwealth agencies, for due diligence purposes. We may also consider information that is discovered through the normal course of business.

Due diligence checks may occur at eligibility, merit or decision-making stages. We use this information to verify the information you provide in the application and to identify issues and risks. See section 13.2 of the grant opportunity guidelines for information on how we use the information you provide to us.

If the selection process identifies unintentional errors in your application, we may contact you to correct or clarify the errors, but you cannot make any material alterations or additions.

#### 10.1.1 Stage one: Expression of Interest

We first review your EOI against the eligibility criteria (Section 5). Only eligible applications will proceed to assessment. We may contact you, after your submission, to ask for clarification or additional information from you regarding the information and the nature of your application.

When assessing the extent to which the EOI represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to:

- how well it meets the assessment criteria
- how well it compares to other applications
- the overall objective/s to be achieved as related to the REP

Submitting an EOI is non-binding and does not guarantee that you will be selected to apply for Stage Two Grant Application or that you will secure grant funding.

Following the assessment of your EOI, we will make a recommendation to the Program Delegate on which EOIs will be presented to Indian industry for consideration. The Program Delegate then makes a decision on which EOIs will proceed to interview. The Program Delegate's decision is final.

Select organisations are then invited to participate in a series (between 1-3) of online interview/s, with

You must ensure at least two personnel attend these interviews including the proposed lead researcher/s or lead nominated participant/s who would participate in the Challenge. We recommend that a team member from your Commercialisation or Technology Transfer office attend the interview(s) if possible.

The information provided in your EOI and the interview responses are assessed using the weighted Assessment Criteria (section 9), and by comparison to other interviewed applicants. Following all interviews, Assessors will review suitability and alignment of interviewed applicants against nominated Indian renewable manufacturer/s needs.

At the conclusion of the interviews, we will make a recommendation to the Program Delegate on which applicants should be invited to apply for a grant (Stage Two). The Program Delegate then makes a decision on which EOIs will proceed to Stage Two. The Program Delegate's decision is final.

### 10.1.2 Stage Two Grant Application

You must be invited to apply for Stage Two. We will assess your Stage Two application against the assessment criteria (see section 9 of the grant opportunity Guidelines). We will consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- how it compares to other applications
- whether it provides value with relevant money.

When assessing whether the application represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to:

- the overall objectives of the grant opportunity
- the evidence provided to demonstrate how your Challenge Activities contributes to meeting those objectives
- the distribution of meritorious applications across REP Priority Areas.

If applications are scored the same, the Panel will consider value for money and the depth and spread of expertise across REP Priority Areas to recommend applications for funding.

## 10.2 Who will assess applications?

Assessors are CSIRO and DCCEEW employees, potential Indian industry, and external technical and commercial professionals approved by the Program Delegate as having knowledge and experience aligned to the Program objectives. Assessors will be assigned to the application process at the discretion of the Program Delegate when deemed appropriate. Not all assessor groups will be involved at every stage of the application process. Assessors include those who sit on an interview panel and assess each application on its merit and compare and rank it against other eligible applications.

All Assessors are required to declare any conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from any applications affected.

Assessors may seek additional information about an application from independent technical experts and other government agencies where appropriate. Assessors may also consider information about an application that is available through the normal course of business. We assess each application on its merit before recommending which grant applications should be awarded a grant. We may ask external experts/advisors to inform the assessment process. Any expert/advisor, who is not a Commonwealth Official, will be required/expected to perform their duties with regard to the CGRPs.

We may seek additional information about you, your application, related bodies corporate, related entities and associated entities (as defined in the Corporations Act) and related personnel from third party sources, including other Commonwealth entities. The assessment committee may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

The assessment committee recommends to the Program Delegate which applications to approve for a grant.

### 10.3 Who will approve grants?

The Program Delegate decides which grants to approve taking into account an application's assessment and availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant opportunity.

The Program Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

## 11 Notification of grant application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

You can submit a new application for the same grant (or a similar grant) under this opportunity.

### 11.1 Further grant opportunities

If there are not enough suitable applications to meet the program's objectives, we reserve the right to reopen applications and or will deliver grant opportunities through closed non-competitive processes.

## 12 Successful grant applications

### 12.1 The Participation Agreement

You must enter into a legally binding Participation Agreement with the CSIRO, its terms and conditions cannot be changed. By request, you may review a sample Participation Agreement which is available on the TCC website. To request a sample Participation Agreement, email [TCC@csiro.au](mailto:TCC@csiro.au).

### 12.2 How we pay the grant

The Participation Agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid

- eligible expenditure covered by the grant
- milestone and activities to be undertaken to be paid the grant
- any financial contributions you must make.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them. You must be able to fund travel and costs of participating in Challenge Activities before being reimbursed.

## 12.3 Grants payments and GST

Grants may be assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#).<sup>2</sup> We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

## 13 Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be reported to DCCEEW, and listed online at <https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/International/Technology-Commercialisation-Challenge> within 21 calendar days from the date of effect as required by Section 5.4 of the [CGRPs](#).

Information published may include:

- name of your organisation
- business location
- logo
- Challenge Statement/s being addressed or endeavoured to be addressed via your participation in the Challenge
- amount of grant funding awarded.

## 14 How we monitor and report on your grant activity

### 14.1 Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details

You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ato.gov.au/>

## 14.2 Your Reporting

You must submit reports in line with your Participation Agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We may use information from successful applications for reporting and evaluation purposes.

We may also survey you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the Challenge impacted your Organisation. We may contact you up to 12 months after completion date of Challenge Activities for more information to assist with this evaluation.

You must discuss any potential delays in submission of reporting with us as soon as you become aware of them.

Please refer to the Participation Agreement for further details.

### 14.2.1 Commencement Survey

At the commencement of Challenge Activities, you must submit a Commencement Survey. This must:

- outline how you plan to implement and progress your project activities
- outline how your project activities will be achieved

### 14.2.2 Progress Activity Report

You must submit a report in line with the Participation Agreement, within 14 days of activity completion. We will ask you to complete a report that outlines:

- activities and outcomes of your in-person engagement with your nominated Indian industry partner in November/early December 2026.
- progress against agreed project activities milestones and outcomes
- project activities expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds to date.

### 14.2.3 Final Challenge Report

You must submit a final report in line with the Participation Agreement, within 30 days of Challenge completion. We will ask you to complete a final report that outlines:

- if and how outcomes have been achieved
- anticipated impacts and your next steps with regards to project outcomes.

### 14.2.4 Post-Challenge Reporting

For a period of 12 months post-Challenge Completion Date, survey responses may be required to assist us to reasonably track how you and your India cross-border activities have generally progressed since Your completion of the Challenge must be returned within four weeks of receiving any online survey request.

We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory Challenge milestone and or reports.

You must discuss any milestone reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

## 14.3 Our Reporting

CSIRO shall report to DCCEEW via both a written report and verbal presentation, a summary of high-level outcomes of the Challenge, achievements and benefits of the R&D and how this may or has

advanced Australia and India's R&D collaboration. This reporting is at a project, and high-level and will not include any commercially sensitive information.

#### 14.4 Participation Agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your project progress. If circumstances arise that may impact the completion of your project. You may request a variation to your Participation Agreement.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the Participation Agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

Contact us via email, to discuss unexpected events and potential circumstances affecting your project and Participation Agreement.

#### 14.5 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant opportunity to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the grant opportunity was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

#### 14.6 Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about the TCC collaboration funded under this grant opportunity, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

'The Technology Commercialisation Challenge (TCC), part of the India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership, is funded by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.'

The statement must be used in full, without any alterations, and should appear in no smaller than 10pt font.

### 15 Probity

The CSIRO will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, is conducted according to the published grant opportunity guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and corruption, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by CSIRO. When this happens, the revised grant opportunity guidelines will be published online at <https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/International/Technology-Commercialisation-Challenge>.

You should be aware of your obligations under the [National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022](#), noting that under the Act grantees will generally be considered 'contracted service providers' [see <https://www.nacc.gov.au/resource-centre/nacc-fact-sheets>].

#### 15.1 Enquiries and feedback

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant, however requests for Challenge information or clarifications can be directed by email to [TCC@csiro.au](mailto:TCC@csiro.au).

You may contact the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#) with complaints. There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

- Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
- Email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)
- Website: [www.ombudsman.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au)

## 16 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest if you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as one of the assessment committee
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the CSIRO from carrying out proposed R&D project activities fairly and independently.

As part of your application, you will be required to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform us in writing immediately.

CSIRO is committed to conducting the affairs of the organisation with integrity and in the national interest consistent with the functions of CSIRO as set out in the [Science and Industry Research Act 1949 \(SIR Act\)](#), and the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 \(PGPA Act\)](#) and other relevant legislation.

We publish our conflict of interest process via the [CSIRO Code of Conduct](#) on the CSIRO website.

All program employees, Assessors or officials including the Program Delegate must also declare any conflicts of interest and manage such conflicts of interest in accordance with CSIRO's policies and procedures.

## 17 Privacy

We are bound to protect personal information in accordance with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#).

Personal Information is collected for the purposes of application to and delivering of the grant opportunity. This personal information may include your name, business address, email address and phone number. By submitting an application the applicant agrees that we will collect, use and disclose the personal information collected in accordance with the [CSIRO Privacy Policy](#) and the [TCC Privacy Statement](#) for the purposes of delivery the grant opportunity.

## 18 Confidential Information

You must not disclose sensitive Confidential Information to in your application. You should take all reasonable steps to ensure you do not disclose material which would undermine your ability to secure patent or other protection for Confidential Information, or which would jeopardise or hinder your commercial activities.

You must ensure information contained in your application will not compromise your requirements for confidentiality (such as protection of Intellectual Property).

## 19 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Officer in writing. This can be:

- by email: [FOI@csiro.au](mailto:FOI@csiro.au)
- by post:  
FOI Officer, CSIRO  
PO Box 225  
Dickson ACT 2602  
Australia

## 20 National security

It is your responsibility to consider any national security implications of your proposed Pilot Phase activities and to identify and manage any risks, particularly relating to export controls, potential for foreign interference and technology transfer.

You should also ensure there are appropriate controls around any sensitive research data including securing intellectual property.

Collaboration with foreign entities must be transparent, undertaken with full knowledge and consent, and in a manner, that avoids harm to Australia's national interests. It is your responsibility to consider the national security implications of your activities.

### 20.1 Know Your Partner

You should ensure that you know who you are collaborating with by undertaking appropriate due diligence, proportionate to the risk and subject to available information, on all partners and personnel participating in the project. This should take into account any potential security, ethical, legal and reputational risks, and, where necessary, you should be prepared to demonstrate how you will manage and mitigate any identified risks

## 21 Glossary

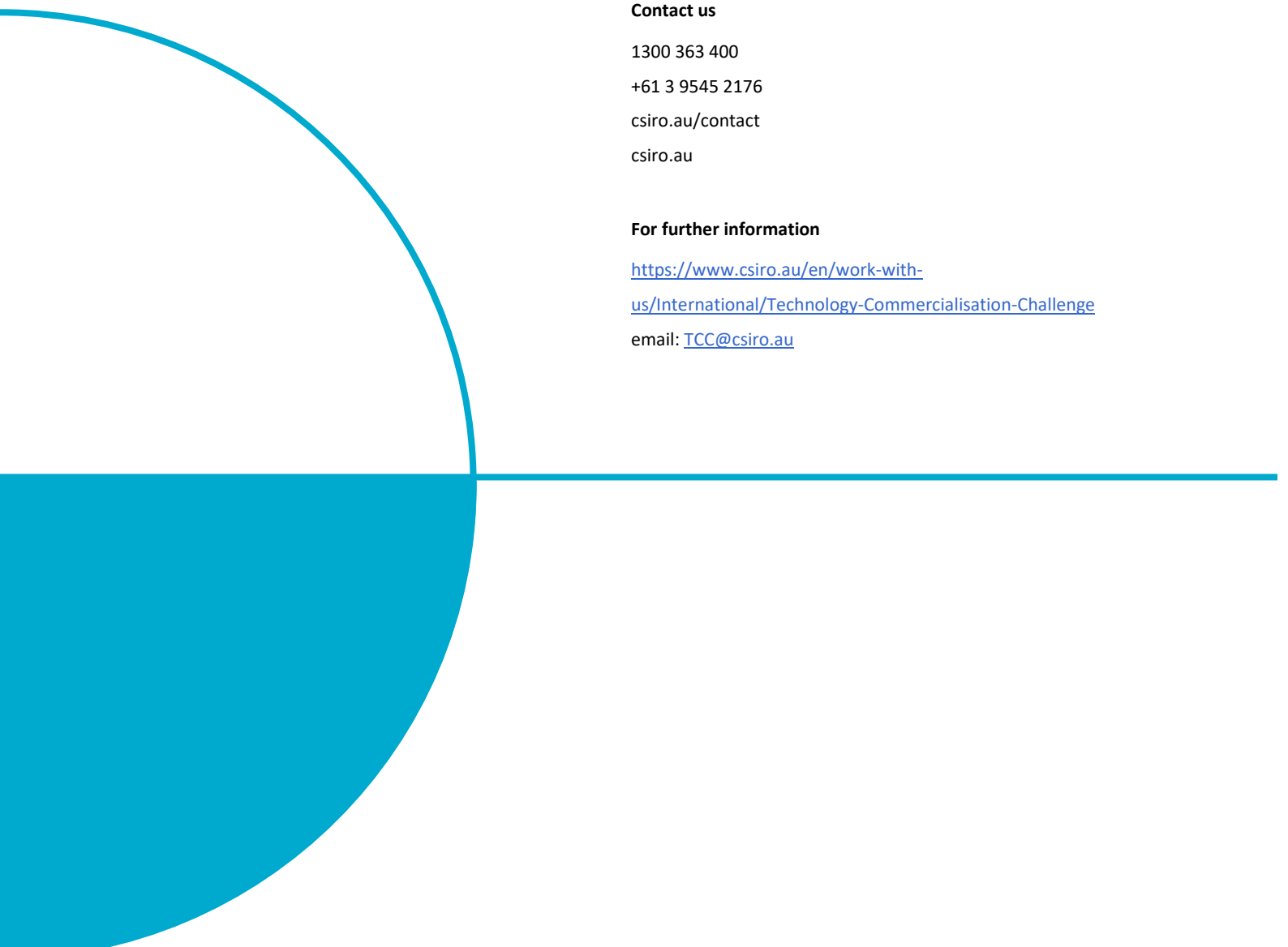
Term	Definition
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.
Challenge Activities	the activities undertaken by a grantee in relation to participation in the Challenge that are eligible for funding support as set out in section 3.1
Challenge Statement/s	a description of a specific problem/s that invites innovative solutions
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
<a href="#"><u>Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs)</u></a>	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
contracted service provider	A contracted service provider is a person who is a party to a Commonwealth contract or is a party to a subcontract with a contracted service provider and is responsible for the provision of goods or services under contract, either directly or indirectly.
date of effect	can be the date on which a Participation Agreement is signed or a specified starting date.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.

Term	Definition
grant	<p>a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>under which relevant money<sup>3</sup> or other <a href="#">Consolidated Revenue Fund</a> (CRF) money<sup>4</sup> is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and</li> <li>which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.</li> </ol>
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
Minister	The Commonwealth Minister for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)	The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is an independent Commonwealth agency. It detects, investigates and reports on serious or systemic corruption in the Commonwealth public sector. The Commission operates under the <a href="#">National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022</a> .
Participation Agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement and specifies the details of the grant.
Priority Areas	the overarching focus area/s of the Challenge which is aligned with the grant opportunity objectives.
Program Delegate	A Manager within the Challenge with responsibility for administering the program.
Program funding or program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
Publicly funded research organisation (PFRO)	All higher education providers listed at Table A and Table B of the Higher Education Support Act 2003 (Cth) and corporate Commonwealth entities, and state and territory business enterprises which undertake publicly funded research.

<sup>3</sup> Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

<sup>4</sup> Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
value with money	<p>value with money in this document refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the quality of the project proposal and activities;</li> <li>▪ fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives;</li> <li>▪ that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and</li> <li>▪ the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.</li> </ul>



**As Australia's national science agency and innovation catalyst, CSIRO is solving the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology.**

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**Contact us**

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[csiro.au](https://www.csiro.au)

**For further information**

[https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-](https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/International/Technology-Commercialisation-Challenge)

[us/International/Technology-Commercialisation-Challenge](https://www.csiro.au/en/work-with-us/International/Technology-Commercialisation-Challenge)

email: [TCC@csiro.au](mailto:TCC@csiro.au)